

Message Text

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S E C R E T JAKARTA 4139

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR MOORE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIA

REF: GENEVA 2374

1. DURING VISIT CHAIRMAN JOINT CHEIFS OF STAFF GENERAL BROWN TO JAKARTA APRIL 5-7, WE HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY INDONESIANS ON LAW OF SEA.

2. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO APRIL 7 GENERAL BROWN MENTIONED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA AT CURRENT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE ON PASSAGE THROUGH ARCHIPELAGO. RIGHTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT U.S. SHIPS, SUBMARINES AND AIRCRAFT TO TRANSIT THIS AREA WERE AS IMPORTANT TO INDONESIA AS TO UNITED STATES. AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL PANGGABEAN, PRESIDENT SUHARTO REPLIED THAT INDONESIA ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO WORLDWIDE ACCEPTANCE OF ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE AS LEGAL BASIS FOR INDONESIAN RIGHTS OVER ITS INTERNAL WATERS. INDONESIA HOPED THAT ANY SPECIAL RIGHTS THROUGH ITS ARCHIPELAGO COULD BE WORKED OUT ON BILATERAL BASIS WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS U.S.

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3. AMBASSADOR HAD LATTER OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS THIS EXCHANGE WITH MARSHAL SUDARMONO. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT PRESIDENT'S POSITION THAT DETAILS OF TRANSIT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT ON BILATERAL BASIS WOULD PRESENT SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR UNITED STATES. SUCH POSITION WOULD SUGGEST NEED TO WORK OUT INDIVIDUAL AND PERHAPS DIFFERING ARRANGEMENTS WITH EACH ARCHIPELAGIC AND STRAITS STATE. THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DIFFICULT FOR ANY MARITIME POWER.

4. MARSHAL SUDARMONO SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS NOT REALISTIC TO THINK OF LEAVING DETAILS TO BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. HE STILL UNDERSTOOD NECESSITY OF WORKING OUT WITH UNITED STATES DETAILS OF REGIME THAT WOULD GOVERN TRANSIT THROUGH STRAITS AND THROUGH ARCHIPELAGO. HE STRESSED AGAIN IMPORTANCE OF TIMING, REITERATING, AS MOCHTAR HAS DONE, THAT INDONESIA WOULD LOSE SUPPORT FOR ITS OBJECTIVE IF IT CAME OUT PREMATURELY IN SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITION ON STRAITS. WHEN WE SAY YES TO EACH OTHER, SUDARMONO SAID, WE MUST BE SURE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE RIGHT FOR BOTH OF US.

5. COMMENT: SUDARMONO LEAVES APRIL 8 FOR GENEVA AND WILL REMAIN UNTIL END OF APRIL. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT DIVISION STILL EXISTS WITHIN GOI BETWEEN THOSE WHO WISH POLITICAL VICTORY FOR ARCHIPELAGO AND THOSE WHO WANT MORE REALISTIC RESULT IN COOPERATION WITH MARITIME NATIONS. GENERAL BROWN'S CONVERSATION WITH SUHARTO SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT MAY LEAN OR BE PERSUADED TO POLITICAL VIEW. WE GATHER, HOWEVER, FROM TALK WITH SUDARMONO THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY STILL EXISTS AND THAT AGREEMENT IS STILL POSSIBLE IF RIGHT MOMENT CAN BE FOUND. POSTURE OF LEAVING INITIATIVE TO INDONESIANS IS PROBABLY BEST AT THIS POINT PROVIDED WE HAVE TIME TO DO IT. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO SUDARMONO THAT THINGS MAY BE MOVING MORE RAPIDLY IN GENEVA THAT INONESIANS HAD EXPECTED. THIS IS SOMETHING PRESUMABLY HE WILL LEARN WHEN HE ARRIVES THERE.
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